

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

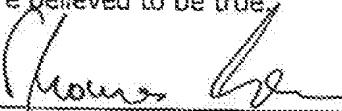
Serial No.: 10/581,470
Filed: June 1, 2006
Examiner: Helena Kosanovic
Confirmation No.: 3887
Art Unit: 3749
Applicant: Thomas Lerche
Title: Method and Device for Air-conditioning Aircraft Cabins
Atty. Doc.: WUE-58 (9A-98605)

DECLARATION OF THOMAS LERCHE

1. My name is Thomas Lerche. I am employed by Airbus Deutschland GmbH ("Airbus") and am the inventor of the above-identified U.S. patent application. I have worked as a designer or engineer in the aircraft field, for Airbus, for ____ years. My work has included many projects related to air-conditioning systems used on aircraft. I consider my knowledge in this technical field to be at least commensurate with that of a person skilled in the art.
2. Because of my experience in this technical field, and as a person skilled in this field, I am aware of the subject matter disclosed in prior patents and/or publications related to mechanisms for adjusting a direction and an impulse of an air flow. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,848,669 ("George"), discloses a mechanism comprising a ball having air-flow passageways therethrough, wherein rotation of the ball changes a direction of an airflow, and, if one or more of the air-flow passageways are blocked, an impulse of the airflow may also be changed. Similarly, US 5,556,335 ("Holyoake") discloses a mechanism by which, through axial movement of a baffle, a direction and impulse of an airflow exiting from an air duct can be changed.
3. In my view, a person skilled in the art of aircraft air-conditioning systems would at least be generally aware of the teachings taught by Holyoake and George, and the capability of devices disclosed therein, even if not specifically aware of these particular patents.

Consequently, such a person skilled in the art would recognize, based on the specification of the above-identified application, how to make and use a mechanism for changing both the impulse and the angle of an air jet, and to effect operation of that mechanism according to a change in form of a temperature-dependent element, without the need for undue experimentation. Therefore, in my view, the specification of the above-identified application does sufficiently "enable" a person skilled in the art to make and use the subject matter of the pending claims, using a single structure or multiple structures configured to alter both the direction and the impulse of an air jet. For that reason I disagree with the position taken by the USPTO in the Office Action dated November 24, 2010. The specification does enable the pending claims.

4. I have been warned that any materially false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or representation may be punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that any such statement or representation may jeopardize the validity of this document. I declare that I am properly authorized to execute this document, that all statements made of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

 25.01.2011

Thomas Lerche

Date